

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 23, lines 14-19 as follows:

-- The desired flexibility or resiliency of the pods 622, 822, 624, 824 is enhanced by enclosing the thin beams 932 in elastic material 636, 836, 936 which could be acquired during the multi-injection molding process. The elastic material 636, 836, 936 serves as a rubber band by returning the beams 932 to their original form or initial position. This return action creates an active motion in the opposite direction of the beam bend which aids in the cleaning of teeth by introducing extra brushing strokes. --

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 23-24 as follows:

-- Beam 932 could be of any suitable shape such as having a cross-section which is circular, square or any other geometric shape that provides a thin dimension or thin diameter to the beam to facilitate the bendability of the beam. The elastomer 636, 836, 936 may be considered as a continuous layer of any suitable thickness which covers the entire central area of head 614, 914 as illustrated so that both pods 622, 822, 624, 824 are incorporated as part of the same elastic material. The portion of the head 614, 914 which includes pods 622, 822, 624, 824 may be formed as a separate subassembly similar to the subassembly later described with respect to Figures 10 and 11. --

Please amend the last paragraph on page 26 as follows:

-- To achieve a functional flexibility and proper tuft retention the portion of the bristle holding part or subassembly 1023 which comprises the plates 1034A, stems 1038A and interconnecting support 1025, 1125 is preferably a blend of polypropylene (PP) and soft TPE. Once the PP/TPE blend is combined with the bristles 1026A the subassembly 1023 is formed. In an initial independent IMT step the subassembly 1023 is then overmolded with an entire

toothbrush handle ~~1012A~~1112A and head ~~1014A~~1114A during a second injection cycle to form the completed toothbrush 1110A shown in Figure 11. If desired or required the entire handle 1112A and head 1114A absent the subassembly 1123 could be made first and the subassembly or bristle retaining portion 1123 made second. --

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 31-32 as follows:

-- ~~Figure 6~~Figure 16 illustrates a toothbrush 1610A which includes a power driven movable disc or section 1650 having cleaning elements. The movable section 1650 could be oscillated rotationally such as by using the type of drive mechanism shown in U.S. Patent No. 5,625,916, or could move in and out using the type of drive mechanism shown in U.S. Patent No. Re35,941; all of the details of both patents are incorporated herein by reference thereto. Alternatively, the other types of drives referred to above could move section 50 in other manners and directions. Although Figure 16 shows movable section 1650 to be at one end of the head, the movable section(s) could be located at any desired location on the head. --

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 32 and 33 as follows:

-- To facilitate the therapeutic movement of fingers 1716-3116 it is important that head 1714 of toothbrush 1710 be flexible and that fingers 1716-3116 be flexibly mounted in head 1714. Figure 25 illustrates one form of flexible mounting of fingers in head 2514. In this embodiment the head ~~142514~~2514 has a box-like shape in cross section. At least the upper face 2522 of head 2514, and preferably the entirety of head 2514, is made of a flexible material so that the axes of fingers 2516 can move relative to the plane of toothbrush 1710. The fingers 2516 project from apertures 2526 in the flexible upper face 2522 of head 2514. Any rib and finger 2216, 2316, 2416 arrangement shown in Figures 22-24 can be molded into the toothbrush head 2214. This flexible mounting in a flexible portion 2222 of head 2214 assists in obtaining the desired

lateral movement of fingers relative to the axes of toothbrush 1710. The role of ribs in obtaining that movement is explained below. --

Please amend page 33, line 17 through page 34, line 15 as follows:

-- The role of ribs 1824-2124 and flexible head 1814-2114 in imparting lateral movement to fingers 1816 is illustrated in Figures 18-21. Figure 18 illustrates the location of fingers 1816 and ribs 1824 (having ends 1828) along outer edges of flexible face 1822 of head 1814. Other groups of bristles or cleaning elements 1817 are arranged inboard of fingers 1816 as illustrated in Figure 18. Fingers 1816 on the outer edge of head 1614 are closest to the gum line when the user holds the toothbrush in a normal position, i.e., with the longitudinal axis perpendicular to the axis of the user's teeth. Ribs 1824 extend from the side of finger 1816 to the face 1822 ~~or 1822A~~ of flexible head 1814. These ribs can have a triangular, trapezoidal or like shape that interconnect the finger 1816 to the face of flexible head 1814. This interconnection assures lateral movement of finger 1816 as the face 1822 ~~or 1822A~~ deflects outward or inward along the longitudinal axis when in use as described below.

The lateral movement of finger 1916-2116 is illustrated in the sequence shown in Figures 19-21. In Figure 19 there is no deflection of face 1922 or rib 1924 of flexible head 1914. Figure 20 represents a deflection of face 2022 that stretches that face as shown by the arrows 2023 at the edge of this fragmental view. When so stretched the ends 2028, 2128 of rib 2024 anchored to face 2022 move away from each other. That movement exerts a lateral force on finger 2016 causing it to move laterally toward the outside periphery of head 2014 as indicated by the arrow 2025 in Figure 20. Conversely, when deflection (arrows 2123) of face 2122 ~~or 2122A~~ of head 2114 causes that face to compress, the ribs 2124 push finger 2116 laterally in the opposite direction as indicated by the arrow 2125 in Figure 21. Thus, as various forces are transmitted to flexible face 2122 ~~or 2122A~~ of head 2114 during use, that head moves in compression or expansion. That movement causes fingers 2116 to move in a lateral direction thereby promoting tooth cleaning and gum stimulation. --

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 34-35 as follows:

-- Other arrangements of ribs 2224, 2324, 2424 (having ends 2228, 2328, 2428) and their attachment to fingers 2216, 2316, 2416 on faces 2222, 2322, 2422 are illustrated in Figures 22-24. As illustrated, multiple fingers 2216, 2316, 2416 are interconnected by a continuous rib 2224, 2324, 2424. Figure 22 illustrates the interconnecting ribs 2224 on one side of fingers 2216. Thus, upon deflection of flexible face 2222 ~~or 2222A~~ of head 2214 all fingers 2216 move in the same direction as indicated by the arrows 2229, 2329 in Figures 22 and 23. If it were desirable to have the fingers 2416 move in different directions the arrangement of ribs 2424 shown in Figure 24 can be utilized. --

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 35-36 as follows:

-- Figure 29 illustrates a powered toothbrush ~~29A~~2910A containing the fingers 2916 of the invention mounted on a flexible head 2914 of the toothbrush. Cleaning elements 1817 are preferably mounted inboard of fingers 1816 as illustrated in Figure 18. This embodiment includes a power driven movable disc or section 2930 having cleaning elements (Figure 29). The movable section 2930 could be oscillated rotationally such as by using the type of drive mechanism shown in U.S. Patent No. 5,625,916, or could move in and out using the type of drive mechanism shown in U.S. Patent No. 35,941; all of the details of both patents are incorporated herein by reference thereto. Although Figure 29 shows movable section 2930 to be at the distal end of the head, the movable section(s) could be located at any desired location on the head. --